

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in the application with claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Niwa et al. in view of Nielsen.

The present invention relates to an information retrieval method and apparatus in which the information source accesses a database that includes first and second dictionaries in different languages or notations. In order to facilitate the accessing of the database, the display means displays an information bar that comprises information obtained by accessing the databases by the access interface unit. This information bar, as shown in Fig. 4 consists of a plurality of lengthwise sections each corresponding to each of the index-item information and being displayed in a staircase pattern. The staircase pattern is shown in Fig. 4, and the cursor can then be moved to designate the search position. This staircase pattern display facilitates the ability of the user to easily move between the dictionaries that are available.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

As previously described Niwa et al. provides a document retrieval assisting method that uses feedback to assist the user in

retrieving a document from a database.

Nielsen is cited for its showing of a number of dictionaries as shown for example in Fig. 3, having various words either approved, misspelled, or to be added.

The independent claims in the instant application have been amended to emphasize the staircase pattern formed of the number of lengthwise sections as described, hereinabove. This staircase pattern was generally recited previously in claims 2 and 7.

In rejecting claims 2 and 7, the examiner points to locations in Niwa et al. as allegedly describing the displayed information bar with index-item information and also the lengthwise sections that can be designated by the cursor. These sections in Niwa et al. noted by the examiner are column 5, lines 18-56, column 4, lines 1-19, column 7, lines 29-67, and column 8, lines 1-28. It is respectfully submitted that upon examining these locations in Niwa et al. there is no disclosure or suggestion of any display of an information bar consisting of a plurality of lengthwise sections displayed in a staircase pattern, as positively recited in claims 1 and 6 as amended hereby.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the information retrieval apparatus and method, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, are

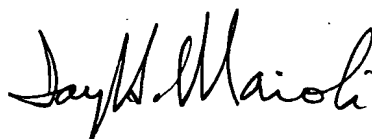
neither shown nor suggested in the cited references alone or in combination.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1 and 6 raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because the amended subject matter was previously set forth in dependent claims 2 and 7.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb